

Mr. J. P. KENNEDY, the distinguished candidate to represent the city of Baltimore in the next Congress, is performing a most acceptable service in placing before his late (and it is to be hoped future) constituents a view of the origin, history, and character of the War with Mexico, which, as far as we have read of it, and now give to our readers as follows, we pronounce to be unanswerable.

To the Citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, and particularly to the Mechanics and Workmen of that District of both political parties.

My subject is now the Mexican war. I mean to devote this and one or two other letters to that subject, for two reasons: First, that, intrinsically, it is a very important topic to the people of the United States just now; and, second, because there has been a great deal of studied and perverse misrepresentation spread abroad in regard to it, with a view to bring the Whigs into disrepute, and to cover up and conceal a very awkward political blunder made by Mr. Polk. The outcry, however, has not yet hurt the Whigs in the opinion of any judicious man, nor has it been very successful in hiding Mr. Polk's delinquencies from the public. Some men seem to think that to slander the Whigs is the best way to screen the President. Mr. Polk himself has set the example in his last annual message, in which he intimates that any man who will not adopt his opinion about the origin of the war is a traitor. A traitor for not believing what he (the President) announces to be a fact! Some of "the organs" repeat this miserable slang. One of them says, for instance, "the treason of Benedict Arnold is nothing" compared to this refusal of the Whigs to believe Mr. Polk—for that is the amount of it. When men write and publish such drivelling nonsense as this, it only shows what a contemptuous opinion they have for those whom they expect to believe them.

I intend to give you a history of the origin of the present war, which I shall take as much as possible from the official records of the country, and from the recorded opinions and proceedings of the most distinguished leaders of the Democratic party. These I shall endeavor to lay before you in the simplest and clearest narrative I can give. You will then be able to judge for yourselves whether the Whigs are right or wrong in what they have said and done about this war.

It is proper, therefore, before I begin the narrative, that I should explain to you what have been and are the opinions and resolves of the Whigs in regard to the war. I will do this in a few words:

First. The Whig party believe that whatever wrongs or injuries Mexico may have done to this country—and we do not deny they were many—still the President had no right to make war upon Mexico without the consent of Congress, to whom the war-making power exclusively belongs.

Second. That the present war did not begin by the act of Mexico, as Mr. Polk declared, but began by the act of Mr. Polk himself, in ordering an army to march into territory under the jurisdiction of Mexico, for the acquisition of which our Government had proposed to open negotiations with Mexico, in the hope of being able to purchase it from that nation.

Third. The Whigs have held and still hold the opinion (notwithstanding the manner this war was commenced), that, being commenced, their duty was to give to the administration all the supplies of men and money which it might ask for to prosecute the war to a successful termination; and, in accordance with this opinion, they have voted for every thing asked for that purpose by the Government, and will continue so to vote, if the war is to be continued.

The Whigs, in common with the whole country, feel a grateful pride in the gallantry of our soldiers and in the glorious success of their arms. In proof of their willingness to encounter the perils and sacrifices of the war, they have furnished their share—and more than their share—of the bravest officers and men to the army. Without, therefore, boasting to be more patriotic than their opponents, they treat with becoming scorn all attempts to represent them as wanting in love of country, or in any just appreciation of its true glory.

These are the views and sentiments of the Whigs, every where announced and acted upon.

I now proceed to show upon what foundation their opinions have been formed in regard to Mr. Polk's conduct in the origin of the war.

This will require that I should recall a few facts connected with the annexation of Texas. The treaty for the annexation was made at Washington on the 12th of April, 1844. This treaty was rejected by the Senate on the 8th of June following, by a vote of 35 to 16—Messrs. Benton and Wright both voting against it.

I have given these two names because they may be considered undisputed leaders of the Democratic party. What were their objections to this treaty? I shall presently quote their own words to show what their objections were; but before I do so, it is necessary to say a word as to the geographical divisions of Mexico.

It has never been denied by any one that the river Nueces was always the boundary which divided the province of Texas from the province of Tamaulipas, through which latter province the Rio Grande runs into the Gulf—Matamoros being its capital. This was the old boundary. And when Mexico, in 1824, formed her confederation of nineteen States, Tamaulipas became one State and Texas another, with the same boundary, to wit, the Nueces, separating one from the other, as the Potomac separates Virginia from Maryland. In 1835 the confederation was broken up by Santa Anna. Tamaulipas and the other States joined the new Government, but Texas refused, revolved against that Government, and declared her independence as a separate State. That independence she secured by the battle of San Jacinto, in 1836.

A few months after the battle of San Jacinto, the Congress of Texas determined to enlarge their boundaries, and accordingly passed a law by which they declared their boundary on the west to be the Rio Grande, from its mouth to its source; thence due north to the 42d degree of latitude; and from that point along the boundary of the United States to the Gulf of Mexico. This boundary, as you will see by looking at the map—which I hope you will do—extends far beyond the limits of the State of Texas as it was known to the Mexican confederation, and takes in a large part of four Mexican provinces which have never revolted against that Government, nor ever been conquered by Texas. These four provinces are Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Chihuahua, and New Mexico.

What right Texas had to extend her boundary over her neighbors has never been explained. I find that she even had it in contemplation to take the whole of California into her empire. She only did not do this because it was not convenient. My authority for this fact is a matter of public record. In August, 1836, General Jackson sent Mr. Henry M. Morfit to Texas, as an agent on the part of this Government, to inquire what was doing, and particularly to look after the subject of annexation. This gentleman wrote several despatches to the Government which have been published by Congress. In one of these he writes: "The political limits of Texas proper, previous to the last revolution, were the Nueces river on the west; along the Red river on the north; the Sabine on the east, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south."

Then on the 27th of August, in the same year, he writes further: "It was the intention of this Government, immediately after the battle of San Jacinto, to have claimed from the Rio Grande along the river to the 30th degree of latitude, and thence due west to the Pacific. It was found, however, that this would not strike a convenient point in California; that it would be difficult to control a wandering population so distant, and that the territory now determined upon would be sufficient for a young Republic."

These letters may be found in the documents of the House of Representatives, No. 35, 2d session of the 24th Congress. So, it appears, from this gentleman's researches, that the only reason why Texas was not made to embrace California was a mere matter of convenience, and that she had determined what she was about to take from four provinces I have mentioned above was quite sufficient for a young Republic.

He shows you what Mr. Morfit, the agent of our Government in Texas, reported to the Department at Washington, in regard to the question of the boundary of the new Republic. Texas was, at that moment, in the flush of extraordinary triumph for the victory of San Jacinto, which was won about three months before Mr. Morfit arrived, and she manifested a disposition to assume what boundary she pleased.

In point of right, her dominion could only extend over the territory that had revolted, and which had sustained itself against the force of Mexico; that is to say, over the territory belonging to the old State of Texas. Tamaulipas had not revolted, neither had Coahuila, nor Chihuahua, nor New Mexico, nor had any portion of these States been conquered by Texas in the war. The extension of her boundary, therefore, over any part of the territory belonging to these States was a mere nullity, just as much as so in Maryland were to pass an act in her Legislature extending the limits of this State to the James river. And if Texas had chosen to include California, as Mr. Morfit tells us she thought of doing, her right to that region would not have been a whit less substantial than it was to the Rio Grande.

We may now come back to the treaty of annexation, and we shall be able to understand why Mr. Benton and Mr. Wright voted against it. The language of the first article of that treaty, so far as relates to the cession, is as follows: "The Republic of Texas, acting in conformity with the wishes of the people and every department of its Government, cedes to the United States all its territories, to be held by them in full property and sovereignty."

Now, when this treaty came into discussion in the Senate, Mr. Benton took a leading part, and made a speech, which was very carefully studied, and which may be justly said to be distinguished for its ability. In that speech he uses the following language:

"In a poor letter which I lately published on the subject of Texas, and in answer to a letter from the members of the Texas Congress, a copy of which was published with my knowledge, while the original has not yet come to hand; in this poor letter I took occasion to discriminate between the old province of Texas and the new Republic of Texas, and to show that the latter includes what was never any part of Texas, but a part of the present department and former province of New Mexico, and parts of other departments of the Mexican Republic. To discriminate between these two Texas, and to show to my fellow-citizens that I took the pains to look at the Texas question before I decided it, and subjected my mind to the process of considering what I was about to do before I spoke, I wrote as follows:

"With respect to Texas, her destiny is fixed. Of course I, who consider what I am about, always speak of Texas as constituted at the time of the treaty of 1819, and not as constituted by the Republic of Texas, comprehending the capital and forty towns and villages of New Mexico, now and always as fully under the dominion of the Republic of Mexico, as Quebec and all the towns and villages of Canada are under the dominion of Great Britain. It is of this Texas—the old Spanish Texas—of which I always speak; and of her, I say, her destiny is fixed! Whatever may be the fate of the present movement, her destiny is to remain to her natural position—that of a part of the American Union."

I adhere to this discrimination between the two Texas, and now propose to see which of the two we are asked by the President of the United States to incorporate into the American Union."

He then read the first article of the treaty, which I have quoted above; and, after some further remarks to show that the Texas proposed to be annexed was that described in the act of the Texas Congress, he proceeded to say:

"From all this it results that the treaty before us, besides the incorporation of Texas proper, also incorporates into our Union the left bank of the Rio Grande, in its whole extent, from its head spring, near the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains, to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico, four degrees south of New Orleans, in latitude 26. It is a 'grand and solitary river,' almost without alluvion or tributaries. Its source is in the region of eternal snow; its outlet in the climate of eternal flowers. Its direct course is 1,200 miles; its actual run about 2,000. This immense river, second only to our continent to the Mississippi only, and but little inferior to it in length, is proposed to be added, in the whole extent of its left bank, to the American Union! and that by virtue of a treaty for the re-annexation of Texas! Now, the real Texas which we acquired by the treaty of 1819, and along away by the treaty of 1828, and which reached the Gulf of Mexico except near its mouth! while the whole upper part was settled by the Spaniards, and great part of it in the year 1824, just one hundred years before La Salle first saw Texas! All this upper part was then formed into provinces, on both sides of the river, and has remained under Spanish or Mexican authority ever since. The Spanish provinces of Texas, Coahuila, Chihuahua, and New Mexico, and the Mexican provinces of Texas, Coahuila, Chihuahua, and New Mexico, lying on both sides of the Rio Grande, from its head to its mouth, now propose to incorporate, so far as they lie on the left bank of the river, into our Union, by virtue of a treaty of re-annexation with Texas."

Mr. Benton then went on to show what provinces this line includes, their population, their towns, cities, &c.

"These," he says, "in addition to the old Texas—these parts of four States—these towns and villages—these people and their cities, towns, and herds—this slice of the Republic of Mexico, two thousand miles long and some hundreds broad—all this our President has cut off from its mother empire, and presents to us and declares it is ours till the Senate rejects it! He calls it Texas! and the cutting off he calls re-annexation! Humboldt calls it New Mexico, Chihuahua, Coahuila, and New Mexico. And now he calls it Texas! and the cutting off he calls re-annexation! This is a new and a terrible epithet. The civilized world may qualify this re-annexation by the application of some odious and terrible epithet."

In the course of the speech he goes further, and says: "The treaty, in all that relates to the boundary of the Rio Grande, is an act of unparalleled outrage on Mexico."

These extracts are taken from a copy of Mr. Benton's speech delivered in the Senate of the United States on the 16th, 18th, and 20th of May, 1844, as revised by himself and published in the Congressional Globe.

Mr. CALHOUN, the Secretary of State, attempted to repel these charges brought against his treaty, by referring to his despatches both to Mr. Shannon and to Mr. Green, who were the agents of our Government at that time in Mexico—to show that we never meant to claim the territory embraced in the act of the Congress of Texas, but that, on the contrary, we were very desirous to open a friendly negotiation with Mexico for the purchase of such a boundary as would be most convenient. To express this purpose to the Mexican Government, Mr. Calhoun wrote to Mr. Green on the 19th of April, 1844—

"You are employed by the President to assure the Mexican Government that it is his desire to settle all questions between the two countries which may grow out of this treaty, or any other cause, on the most liberal and satisfactory terms, including that of boundary."

This declaration, however, did not satisfy the Senate. They were not willing to give any sanction to such a claim as the words of the treaty covered. Mr. Walker endeavored to persuade them, and so did Mr. Woodbury, that the treaty could only convey what actually belonged to Texas, and, therefore, that it would be void as regarded the territory to which Texas had no right. But both of these gentlemen made arguments in favor of the claim to the Rio Grande, thus foreboding what Mexico might expect if the treaty should be ratified; and so the Senate rejected the treaty by the decisive vote I have mentioned.

In the course of these proceedings upon the question of annexation, Mr. Benton still more explicitly expressed his views of the character of the act by offering the following resolution:

"That the incorporation of the left bank of the Rio del Norte into the American Union, by virtue of a treaty with Texas, comprehending, as the said incorporation would do, a part of the Mexican departments of New Mexico, Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas, would be an act of direct aggression upon Mexico, for all the consequences of which the United States would stand responsible."

Mr. WRIGHT took no part in the debate upon this question in the Senate. He voted with Mr. Benton against the treaty, and, upon his return to New York after the close of the session, he made a speech at Watertown, in which he stated his reasons for his vote:

"I felt it my duty," he remarked in that speech, "to vote against the ratification of the treaty for the annexation of Texas, because the treaty, by the boundaries that must be implied from it, embraced a country to which Texas had no claim, over which she had never asserted jurisdiction, and which she had no right to cede." "It appeared to me, then," he continued, "if Mexico should tell us, 'We don't know you, take possession by force, we must do the same to you as you have done to us; and, in doing that, we must do you the injury to Mexico, and take a large portion of New Mexico, the people of which have never been under the jurisdiction of Texas. This to me was an insupportable barrier; I could not place the country in that position.'"

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I think you will not be satisfied, from the speeches and documents I have quoted, that Messrs. BENTON, WRIGHT, and CALHOUN, all three, have distinctly avowed their conviction that Texas had no right to cede to us the territory which borders upon the Rio Grande, and that, consequently, by no treaty from Texas could we obtain any just claim to that territory.

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## THE LATE BATTLES IN MEXICO.

From a private letter, written by a gentleman of the army after the battles near Mexico of the 19th and 20th August, the Missouri Republican has been permitted to make the following interesting extracts, which will enable the reader more vividly to conceive the sanguinary character of those engagements, and the immense sacrifice of men which this war has brought upon us. The letter is dated at San Augustin on the 25th of August:

"Our arms are again victorious, but at a fearful cost of life and blood. We have lost one thousand in killed and wounded, and among the killed are the best officers of the army. Captain CAPRON and Captain BURKE are with the buried, having been killed dead at the storming of Churubusco, where we lost in three hours seven hundred officers and men."

"On the 19th our division advanced upon the enemy in position at Contreras, their first work, defended by ten thousand men, with twenty-two pieces of artillery, and admirably entrenched."

"The advanced guard was commanded by Capt. Roberts and Capt. Porter, and by them the attack was commenced. Capt. Roberts deployed in front of their battery, about one thousand yards from their front, and advanced steadily under the fire of shells, round, grape, and canister shot, driving in their pickets and skirmishers, and took his position under shelter of a cover of rocks and a deep ravine, about two hundred yards from their first line of batteries and breastworks, where he remained until the rest of the division and Gen. Quitman's supporting command had come up to join the attack. It was found impossible, in consequence of the nature of the ground, considered impassable by the Mexicans, to form the order of battle and assault the works until morning, our men having made a long march, and having labored for hours in making roads and hauling artillery and ammunition. The whole army took cover within musket range of the enemy, who poured upon us all the time their fire from ten thousand muskets, and slept on our arms during the night."

"At two o'clock in the morning, under cover of darkness and rain, our positions were taken, and at seven the assault was made. The works were all carried by the bayonet in less than an hour, and the ten thousand Mexicans put to perfect rout. The scene cannot be described; eight hundred and fifty Mexicans were dead upon the field, between three and four hundred were wounded, and fifteen hundred taken prisoners; and their twenty-two pieces of artillery, and great quantities of ammunition and other material of war, captured. Our loss in killed and wounded was less than two hundred. Capt. Hanson, of the 7th infantry, and Lieut. Johnston, of the 1st artillery, were the only officers killed. We pushed forward to this place in pursuit of the retreating enemy, when the Lancers made a stand, and continued to fire upon us through the roads and fields up to Churubusco, where the most terrible battle ever fought on this continent took place. This assault by the bayonet has redeemed the impeded valor of the Mexican army. Gen. Twiggs's, Gen. Worth's, and Gen. Pillow's divisions were all concentrated here, and for two hours and a half every man was brought under the fire of the works. The strength of this position can hardly be conceived. We had but one approach, water surrounding it on all sides but one. This approach was defended by twenty-five thousand men, behind the most approved field-works, of great strength, and seemingly impregnable. Of course they were carried, but the fields and works, covered with between three and four thousand killed and wounded on both sides, showed the terrible cost. Fifty of our officers were killed and wounded."

"Before Gen. Worth had joined our division in this attack, he had stormed and carried the works at San Antonio, with no little loss. You may well imagine that our division was too much exhausted and cut to pieces to push on further. We had been fighting some eight hours, and had marched nearly eight miles; all were worn out with hunger, thirst, and fatigue. As for myself, I had eaten nothing but the half of a hard biscuit for forty-eight hours. Gen. Worth's division, more fresh, pushed on, and stormed and carried another strong fort before dark, within one mile of the city gates. Captain Phil Kearny lost an arm here, but he is doing well, and is in no danger. He was greatly distinguished, and has covered himself with glory."

"The 20th of August, 1847, will be a day never to be forgotten. Its history is written in blood, and the halo of glory that it wreathes upon the arms of our country is too deeply enmeshed with the blood of Americans, to rejoice the city that has covered itself with imperishable renown. Our camp is filled with mourning, and the reflection that the greater grief is yet to be carried to the hearts and homes of those who have fallen is too sad for utterance. What a carnage for a single day! The sun that rose on the 20th shed its gliding light upon seven thousand men, full of life and hope, who strewed the battle field with their scattered limbs and corpses when night closed in! The day was tumultuous, revengeful, and bloody: the night gloomy, fearful, and dark—the stillness only broken by the groans of the wounded and the dying."

"Of course, all the ordinance of the four positions that were assaulted were captured, and with them ammunition and stores of every kind. We have three thousand prisoners—among them ex-President ANAYA—the commanding general of the army, (Rincon), and other general officers. We hardly know what to do with our prisoners and stores. Some forty deserters from our army are among the prisoners, who will be hanged, so soon as we can have a military commission composed for their trial. Several Mexican officers, probed at Cerro Gordo, are also prisoners—they will swing with the deserters."

"You will now ask, what is to be the result of all this? A question I am not able to answer. The Mexicans agreed to a truce, with a view to appoint commissioners to negotiate a peace. An armistice was yesterday agreed upon for that purpose, and I trust in God that peace will follow immediately. Having destroyed the main approaches to and defenses of the city, it will be an easy matter to march into it, should hostilities be renewed."

"Major Mills was killed, his horse having run off with him and carried him into the enemy's works, where he was lanceed after he had surrendered his sword."

Under date of the 27th, it is said: "The prospect of peace brightens; I shall be at home in January, I believe."

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.—Mrs. SEAN, an English lady, from Yorkshire, in company with her son-in-law, two daughters, two grandchildren, and a servant, arrived at Rochester (N. Y.) on Thursday last upon the Eastern emigrant train. The son-in-law left the females in the car and went to the depot to get some inquiries about going West. While he was absent, the person who sweeps the cars went into the car occupied by Mrs. Sean and her daughters, and told them to hurry and get upon the other cars. The daughters stepped out, and while Mrs. S. was stepping from the platform the engineer started the cars backward, the sudden motion of which threw her some twenty feet between the cars, and before she could rise two wheels passed over her, crushing her body and left arm in a most shocking manner, and causing her death almost instantly. Her age was about 48 years.

THE HARRISBURG BRIDGE.—The Harrisburg Bridge, which was swept away by the great freshet of 1846, was opened for general travel on Monday last, and quite a number of wagons and carriages have since passed over it, which is sufficient evidence that this old favorite of our borough will do proportion.

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## NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 28, 1847.

Reception of the American Mail-Steamer *Washington* at Bremen.—This pioneer mail-steamship from the United States to Europe left on Thursday last on her second trip, having undergone important alterations and improvements, which it is confidently believed will add much to her speed, and render her better adapted to a sea-voyage. The second steamer for this line, to be called the *Herman*, will be launched, it is said, on Thursday of this week, and will be ready for sea in early winter.

Hunt's Merchants' Magazine for October, which will be published in a day or two, contains a very interesting article on American mail-steamers, from which, as I have been allowed the use of some of the proof-sheets, I send you rather an extended extract. It has the charm of a highly wrought fancy sketch, while it undoubtedly gives a faithful narrative, by an intelligent eye-witness "not unknown to fame," of the enthusiastic ceremonies attending the reception of our first steamer in Germany. This reception, the writer shows, was in most striking contrast with that extended to the *Washington* at the English port of Southampton, where every body, except "the Southampton Dock Company," seemed to give her most decidedly the cold shoulder. But to the extract:

"The North Sea smiled as the ship drew nigh the shores of Germany. It was the first American steamer that had ever moved upon that sea, and Capt. Hewitt piloted her himself. The sun broke cheerily as she entered the Weser. Two steamers, decorated with the flags of all nations, came down to meet her. Aloft was the star-spangled banner, and staining in proud and brotherly union the flag of the Republic of Bremen, emblazoned with the arms of the city, a large keel, emblematic of its local position, as holding and ready to open the door of Germany. With music playing, and cannon firing, the two steamers escorted the *Washington* to her moorings at Bremen Haven. The port and all the vessels in the harbor were decorated with flags. A deputa-tion of Bremen, clothed in the robes of the city, and with a formal address welcomed to Germany, the American mail-steamship. One of the attending steamers received on board the mail, Major Hobbie, the directors of the company, and other passengers, and, followed by a numerous escort, started for Bremen, thirty miles distant. As she moved up the river, merchant vessels, steamers, lighters, row-boats, sail-boats, and every craft she met were decked with colors. The Weser fishermen, scattered along the line of the river, and even the staid bores, constantly drudging to keep open the channel, smiled a welcome; while at every village the whole population lined the bank, unused to the noisy welcome of a barge, but with beaming eyes expressing the deep feeling of their hearts at the opening of direct steam communication with America. It was, in truth, the opening of a day of promise. A precious messenger had arrived, bringing to them the thoughts, wishes, hopes, feelings, and prospects of near connexions separated by an immense sea. At short intervals the same messenger would come again; at times, indeed, bringing tales of bereavement and woe, but in the main to scatter cheer and every-day pleasures of the home life, and to bring by frequent and early intelligence of the prosperity and thrift of his friends in America."

"Approaching Bremen the escort of boats became more numerous; and from the ramparts, which form on that side the boundary of the city, the quay was lined with citizens of all ages and sizes, while the balconies of the tall houses fronted it and every window presented living tableaux, graced by ladies, who, waving handkerchiefs and scattering flowers, welcomed the Americans to Bremen. In the balcony of one house, distinguished by his standing white hair and strongly-marked features, and to the Americans on board remarkable for his striking resemblance to General Jackson, was Burgomaster Smidt, the venerable and distinguished Bremen burgomaster, and every-day presence in Bremen. He had been the master of the historic eye of Napoleon for his liberal opinions, and as the head of disaffection in the Hame Towns. On the fall of the Emperor he had been sent by those towns as a delegate to the Congress of Vienna, which divided up the continental empire and fixed their territorial limits. The year previous to this he had been elected burgomaster, and on the anniversary of his service as burgomaster; and one of his sons, resident at Louisville, in Kentucky, went out in the *Washington* to join the family gathering on the fiftieth anniversary of his father's marriage. But the old burgomaster was not replying upon his honors, or falling back upon his domestic life; on the contrary, he had on him at that moment the full harness of a warrior, and he was, in the eyes of the historic eye of Napoleon for his liberal opinions, and as the head of disaffection in the Hame Towns. On the fall of the Emperor he had been sent by those towns as a delegate to the Congress of Vienna, which divided up the continental empire and fixed their territorial limits. 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